ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
6000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-6000

COMMAND, CONTROL, COMMUNICATIONS, AND INTELLIGENCE

August 22, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING

SUBJECT: Follow-On Contract for the Defense Research and Engineering Network (DREN)

In response to your May 3, 2000, memorandum, subject as above, it is acknowledged that DREN is DoD's recognized Research and Engineering network. In addition, the Global Information Grid (GIG) has recognized DREN as being a specialized community within DoD. As a result of GIG Network Review Panel 3 (May 12, 2000) and Panel 5 (June 2, 2000), DISA and the High Performance Computing (HPC) community worked out an excellent plan for the DREN transition to DISN transport, a migration plan satisfactory to ASD (C3I), DISA, and HPC.

Historically, and in the interest of maximum performance, the use of DISN Common User Services (CUS) provides support to the warfighter's command control communications and intelligence elements, and communities of interest via the NIPRNET, the SIPRNET, the DSN, the DREN, as well as DISN Video Services-Global. The research, development, test, and evaluation community (RDT&E) will not be required to utilize DISN CUS, based upon acceptance of DREN as an approved alternative for RDT&E functions. DISA will work with the HPC office to award a DREN follow-on contract for transmission services. The contract will include provisions to allow transition to the DISN Transport when the DISN Transport has the appropriate capability (e.g., bandwidth/circuits) to support the HPC RDT&E community. At that time, DISA and the HPC community will finalize their transition plans.

Based on the informative DREN security briefing which you and I received on June 23, 2000, DREN clearly meets all security requirements directed by the DISN Security Accreditation Working Group (DSAWG). Thus, DoD organizations do not need a DSAWG waiver to connect to DREN or to both DREN and the NIPRNET (unless the base or site also has a separate Internet Service Provider (ISP) connection).

I strongly endorse the planned DREN pair-wise peering with NIPRNET at Fort Belvoir, Virginia; SPAWAR Systems Center, San Diego, California; and Wahiawa, Hawaii. This will significantly reduce the amount of DoD traffic flowing through Internet Exchange Points and, consequently, further enhance the overall security posture of DoD.

Arthur L. Money